Henry Jos Lodge. 1800

THE WILL OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON:

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

A

SCHEDULE OF HIS PROPERTY,

DIRECTED TO BE SOLD.

ALEXANDRIA:

PRINTED FROM THE RECORD OF THE COUNTY COURT OF FAIRFAX.

M,DCCC.

VIRGINIA, *Fairfax, ss.*

I, GEORGE DENEALE, Clerk of Fairfax County Court, DO *Certify, That the subsequent Copy of the last* WILL *and* TESTAMENT *of* GEORGE WASHINGTON, *deceased, late* President *of the* United States *of* America, *with the* SCHEDULE *annexed, is a True Copy from the Original, recorded in my Office.*

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, this 23d Day of January, 1800.

GEORGE DENEALE, C. F. C.

THE WILL OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.

In the name of God, Amen.

I GEORGE WASHINGTON, of MOUNT VERNON, a CITIZEN of the *United States*, and lately *President* of the same, DO make, ordain, and declare this Instrument which is written with my own Hand,* and every page thereof subscribed with my Name, to be my last WILL and TESTAMENT, revoking all others.——*Imprimis.* All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily

* *In the original manuscript*, GEORGE WASHINGTON'S *name was written at the bottom of every page.*

paid,

paid, and the Legacies herein after bequeathed, are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

Item. To my dearly beloved wife *Martha Washington*, I give and bequeath the use, profit, and benefit of my whole Estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specially disposed of hereafter.—My improved Lot in the town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron streets, I give to her and her heirs for ever; as I also do my Household and Kitchen Furniture of every sort and kind with the Liquors and Groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease, to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

Item. Upon the decease of my wife, it is my will and desire, that all the Slaves which I hold in my *own right* shall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her life, would, though earnestly wished by me, be attended with such insuperable difficulties on account of their intermixture by marriages with the dower Negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable consequences from the latter while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor; it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower Negroes are held, to manumit them. *And whereas*, among those who will receive freedom according to this devise, there may be some who from old age or bodily infirmities, and others who, on account of their infancy, that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description, shall be com-

comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live; and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living, are unable or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years; and in cases where no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the court upon its own view of the subject, shall be adequate and final. The Negroes thus bound, are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read & write & to be bro't up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphan and other poor children.— And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation out of the said commonwealth of any Slave I may die possessed of under any pretence whatsoever. And I do moreover, most pointedly and most solemnly enjoin it upon my Executors hereafter named or the survivor of them, to see that *this* clause respecting Slaves and every part thereof, be religiously fulfilled at the epoch at which it is directed to take place, without evasion, neglect, or delay, after the crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects the aged and infirm; seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support as long as there are subjects requiring it; not trusting to the uncertain provision to be made by individuals:—And to my mulatto man *William*, (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom, or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him and which have rendered him incapable of walking

or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so; in either case however, I allow him an annuity of Thirty Dollars during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victuals and cloaths he has been accustomed to receive if he chuses the last alternative; but in full with his freedom, if he prefers the first: and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War.

Item. To the Trustees (Governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated) of the Academy, in the Town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in trust, Four Thousand Dollars, or, in other words, twenty of the Shares which I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a Free School, established at, and annexed to, the said Academy, for the purpose of educating such Orphan Children, or the Children of such other poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means; and who, in the judgment of the Trustees of the said Seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation. The aforesaid twenty Shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity; the dividends only of which are to be drawn for, and applied by the said Trustees, for the time being, for the uses above mentioned; the Stock to remain entire and untouched, unless indications of failure of the said Bank should be so apparent, or a discontinuance thereof, should render a removal of this fund necessary. In either of these cases, the amount of the Stock here devised is to be vested

in

in ſome other bank, or public inſtitution, whereby the intereſt may with regularity and certainty be drawn, and applied as above: And, to prevent miſconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that theſe twenty Shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to, the Thouſand Pounds given by a miſſive letter ſome years ago; in conſequence whereof, an annuity of Fifty Pounds has ſince been paid towards the ſupport of this inſtitution.

Item. Whereas by a law of the commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the legiſlature thereof was pleaſed (as an evidence of its approbation of the ſervices I had rendered the public during the Revolution, and partly I believe, in conſideration of my having ſuggeſted the vaſt advantages which the community would derive from the extenſion of its inland navigation under legiſlative patronage) to preſent me with one hundred Shares of one hundred Dollars each, in the incorporated company eſtabliſhed for the purpoſe of extending the navigation of James River from tide water to the mountains;—and alſo with Fifty Shares of one hundred Pounds ſterling each, in the corporation of another company likewiſe eſtabliſhed for the ſimilar purpoſe of opening the navigation of the river Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honourable and grateful to my feelings, was refuſed as inconſiſtant with a principle which I had adopted, and had never departed from—Namely—not to receive pecuniary compenſation for any ſervices I could render my country in its arduous ſtruggle

with

with Great Britain for its rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union. Adding to this refusal, however, an intimation that, if it should be the pleasure of the legislature to permit me to appropriate the said Shares to *public uses*, I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility; and this it having consented to, in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent law and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honourable manner. I proceed after this recital, for the more correct understanding of the case, to declare—That as it has always been a source of serious regret with me to see the Youth of these United States sent to Foreign countries for the purpose of Education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; contracting too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to Republican government, and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind; which, thereafter are rarely overcome. —For these reasons, it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising empire, thereby to do away local attachments and state prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our National Councils.—Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is, (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than the establishment of a UNIVERSITY

in a central part of the United States, to which the Youths of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their Education in all the branches of polite literature; in arts and sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgement) by associating with each other and forming friendships in Juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those local prejudices and habitual jealousies which have just been mentioned; and which, when carried to excess, are never failing sources of disquietude to the public mind, and pregnant of mischevious consequences to this country; under these impressions, so fully dilated,

Item. I give and bequeath in perpetuity the Fifty Shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforesaid acts of the legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a UNIVERSITY to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the general government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it; and until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, my further WILL and DESIRE is, that the profit accruing therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing Stock in the Bank of Columbia, or some other Bank, at the discretion of my Executors, or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being, under the direction of Congress—provided that honourable body should patronize

the

the meaſure, and the dividends proceeding from the purchaſe of ſuch Stock is to be veſted in more Stock, and ſo on, until a ſum, adequate to the accompliſhment of the object, is obtained; of which I have not the ſmalleſt doubt, before many years paſs away, even if no aid or encouragement is given by legiſlative authority, or from any other ſource.

Item. The hundred Shares which I hold in the James River Company, I have given, and now confirm in perpetuity, to and for the uſe and benefit of Liberty Hall Academy, in the county of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Item. I releaſe, exonerate and diſcharge the eſtate of my deceaſed Brother, *Samuel Waſhington*, from the payment of the money which is due to me for the land I ſold to *Philip Pendleton* (lying in the county of Berkeley) who aſſigned the ſame to him, the ſaid *Samuel*, who, by agreement, was to pay me therefor: *And whereas*, by ſome contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the ſaid *Samuel* and his Son, *Thornton Waſhington*, the latter became poſſeſſed of the aforeſaid land, without any conveyance having paſſed from me, either to the ſaid *Pendleton*, the ſaid *Samuel*, or the ſaid *Thornton*, and without any conſideration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal nor equitable title has been alienated; it reſts therefore with me to declare my intentions concerning the premiſes; and theſe are to give and bequeath the ſaid land to whomſoever the ſaid *Thornton Waſhington* (who is alſo dead) deviſed the ſame, or to his heirs forever, if he died in-

teſtate,

eſtate; exonerating the eſtate of the ſaid *Thornton*, equally with that of the ſaid *Samuel*, from payment of the purchaſe money, which, with intereſt, agreeably to the original contract with the ſaid *Pendleton*, would amount to more than a thouſand pounds: *And whereas* two other Sons of my ſaid deceaſed Brother, *Samuel*, namely, *George Steptoe Waſhington*, and *Lawrence Auguſtine Waſhington*, were, by the deceaſe of thoſe to whole care they were committed, brought under my protection, and in conſequence have occaſioned advances on my part for their education at College and other ſchools, for their board, clothing, and other incidental expences, to the amount of near five thouſand dollars over and above the ſums furniſhed by their eſtate, which ſum it may be inconvenient for them or their father's eſtate to refund—I do, for theſe reaſons, acquit them and the ſaid eſtate from the payment thereof—my intention being that all accounts between them and me, and their father's eſtate and me, ſhall ſtand balanced.

Item. The balance due to me from the eſtate of *Bartholomew Dandridge*, deceaſed (my Wife's brother) and which amounted, on the firſt day of October, 1795, to four hundred and twenty five pounds (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceaſed Son, *John Dandridge*, who was the acting executor of his father's will) I releaſe and and acquit from the payment thereof—and the Negroes (then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the ſaid eſtate, who were taken in execution, ſold and purchaſed in on my account, in the year *(blank)* & ever ſince have remained in

the poſſeſſion, and to the uſe of *Mary*, widow of the ſaid *Bartholomew Dandridge*, with their increaſe, it is my WILL and DESIRE ſhall continue and be in her poſſeſſion, without paying hire, or making compenſation for the ſame, for the time paſt or to come, during her natural life; at the expiration of which, I direct that all of them, who are forty years old & upwards, ſhall receive their freedom; all under that age and above ſixteen, ſhall ſerve ſeven years, and no longer; and all under ſixteen years, ſhall ſerve until they are twenty five years of age, and then be free—And to avoid diſputes reſpecting the ages of any of theſe Negroes, they are to be taken into the court of the county in which they reſide, and the judgment thereof, in this relation, ſhall be final, and record thereof made, which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter, if diſputes ſhould ariſe concerning the ſame— And I further direct, that the heirs of the ſaid *Bartholomew Dandridge* ſhall, equally, ſhare the benefits ariſing from the ſervices of the ſaid Negroes, according to the tenor of this deviſe, upon the deceaſe of their mother.

Item. If *Charles Carter*, who intermarried with my niece, *Betty Lewis*, is not ſufficiently ſecured in the title to the lots he had of me, in the town of Fredericksburg, it is my WILL and DESIRE that my Executors ſhall make ſuch conveyances of them as the law requires, to render it perfect.

Item. To my Nephew *William Auguſtine Waſhington*, and his heirs (if he ſhould conceive them to be objects worth proſecuting) and to his heirs,

a Lot in the town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No. 265, drawn on my sole account, and also the tenth of one or two hundred acre lots. & 2 or 3 half acre lots, in the city & vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the Lottery of the deceased *William Byrd*, are given as; is also a Lot which I purchased of *John Hood*, conveyed by *William Willie* and *Samuel Gordon*, Trustees of the said *John Hood*, numbered 139, in the town of Edinburgh, in the county of Prince George, state of Virginia.

Item. To my Nephew, *Bushrod Washington*, I give and bequeath all the Papers in my possession, which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of this country—I leave to him also, such of my private Papers as are worth preserving; and at the decease of my Wife, and before, if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my Library of Books and Pamphlets of every kind.

Item. Having sold lands which I possessed in the state of Pennsylvania, and part of a tract held in equal right with *George Clinton*, late governor of New York, in the state of New York; my share of land and interest, in the Great Dismal Swamp and a tract of land, which I owned in the county of Glouceſter—withholding the legal titles thereto, until the consideration money should be paid—and having moreover leased, and conditionally sold (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great Kenhawa, and a tract upon Difficult run, in the county of Loudoun, it is my WILL and DIRECTION that whensoever the contracts are fully and respectively complied with,

with, according to the ſpirit, true intent and meaning thereof, on the part of the purchaſers, their heirs or aſſigns, that then, & in that caſe, conveyances are to be made, agreeable to the terms of the ſaid contracts, and the money ariſing therefrom, when paid, to be veſted in Bank Stock ;—the dividends whereof, as of that alſo which is already veſted therein, is to inure to my ſaid wife during her life, but the ſtock itſelf is to remain and be ſubject to the general diſtribution hereafter directed.

Item. To the *Earl of Buchan* I recommit "the Box made of the Oak that ſheltered the great Sir *William Wallace* after the Battle of Falkirk"—preſented to me by his Lordſhip, in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a requeſt "to paſs it, on the event of my deceaſe, to the man in my country, who ſhould appear to merit it beſt, upon the ſame conditions that have induced him to ſend it to me." Whether eaſy or not, to ſelect *the Man* who might comport with his Lordſhip's opinion in this reſpect, is not for me to ſay ; but conceiving that no diſpoſition of this valuable curioſity can be more eligible than the recommitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original deſign of the Goldſmiths' Company of Edinburg, who preſented it to him, and, at his requeſt, conſented that it ſhould be transferred to me—I do give and bequeath the ſame to his Lordſhip ; and, in caſe of his deceaſe, to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the diſtinguiſhed honour of preſenting it to me, and more eſpecially for the favorable ſentiments with which he accompanied it.

Item.

Item. To my Brother, *Charles Washington*, I give and bequeath the Gold headed Cane left me by Dr. *Franklin*, in his will. I add nothing to it, because of the ample provision I have made for his issue. To the acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years, *Lawrence Washington* and *Robert Washington*, of Chotanck, I give my other two Gold headed Canes, having my arms engraved on them; and to each (as they will be useful where they live) I leave one of the Spy-glasses, which constituted part of my equipage, during the late war. To my Compatriot in arms and old and intimate Friend, Dr. *Craik*, I give my Bureau (or, as the Cabinet-Makers call it, Tambour Secretary) and the circular Chair, an appendage of my Study. To Dr. *David Stuart* I give my large Shaving and Dressing Table, and my Telescope. To the Reverend, now *Bryan Lord Fairfax*, I give a Bible, in three large folio volumes, with notes—presented to me by the Rt. Rev. *Thomas Wilson*, Bishop of Sodor and Man. To General *De la Fayette* I give a Pair of finely wrought Steel Pistols, taken from the enemy in the revolutionary war. To my Sisters-in-Law, *Hannah Washington* and *Mildred Washington*—to my friends *Eleanor Stuart*, *Hannah Washington*, of Fairfield, and *Elizabeth Washington* of Hayfield, I give, each, a Mourning Ring, of the value of one hundred Dollars. These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard. To *Tobias Lear* I give the use of the farm which he now holds, in virtue of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural

ral lives) free from rent during his life; at the expiration of which, it is to be disposed of as is herein after directed. To *Sally B. Haynie* (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred Dollars. To *Sarah Green*, daughter of the deceased *Thomas Bishop*, and to *Ann Walker*, daughter of *John Alton*, also deceased, I give each one hundred Dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me; each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family. To each of my Nephews, *William Augustine Washington*, *George Lewis*, *George Steptoe Washington*, *Bushrod Washington*, and *Samuel Washington*, I give one of the Swords or Cutteaux, of which I may die possessed: and they are to choose in the order they are named.—— These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the Relinquishment thereof.

And now, having gone through these specific Devises, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following:

First. To my Nephew, *Bushrod Washington*, and his heirs (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased Father, while we were Bachelors, and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my estate during my military services, in

in the former war between Great Britain and France, that if I ſhould fall therein, Mount Vernon (then leſs extenſive in domain than at preſent) ſhould become his property, I give and bequeath all that part thereof, which is comprehended within the following limits, viz:—BEGINNING at the ford of Dogue Run, near my Mill, and extending along the road, and bounded thereby, as it now goes and ever has gone ſince my recollection of it, to the ford of Little Hunting Creek, at the Gum Spring, until it comes to a knowl, oppoſite to an old road which formerly paſſed through the lower field of Muddy-hole Farm; at which, on the north ſide of the ſaid road, are three red or Spaniſh Oaks marked as a Corner, and a Stone placed—thence by a line of trees to be marked rect-angular to the back line or outer boundary of the tract between *Thomſon Maſon* and myſelf—thence with that line Eaſterly (now double ditching with a poſt and rail fence thereon) to the run of Little Hunting Creek—thence with that run, which is the boundary between the lands of the late *Humphrey Peake* and me, to the tide water of the ſaid Creek—thence by that water to Potomac River—thence with the River to the mouth of Dogue Creek—and thence with the ſaid Dogue Creek to the place of beginning at the aforeſaid ford, containing upwards of four thouſand acres, be the ſame more or leſs, together with the Manſion Houſe, and all other buildings and improvements thereon. SECOND.—In conſideration of the conſanguinity between them & my wife,

wife, being as nearly related to her as to myself; as, on account of the affection I had for, and the obligation I was under to, their father when living, who, from his youth had attached himself to my person, and followed my fortunes through the viciſſitudes of the late revolution, afterwards devoting his time to the ſuperintendance of my private concerns for many years, whilſt my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myſelf, thereby affording me eſſential ſervices, and always performing them in a manner the moſt filial and reſpectful: for theſe reaſons, I ſay, I give and bequeath to *George Fayette Waſhington* and *Lawrence Auguſtine Waſhington*, and their heirs, my Eſtate Eaſt of Little Hunting Creek, lying on the River Potomac, including the Farm of three hundred and ſixty acres, leaſed to *Tobias Lear*, as noticed before, and containing in the whole, by Deed, Two Thouſand and Twenty ſeven acres, be it more or leſs; which ſaid Eſtate it is my will and deſire ſhould be equitably and advantageouſly divided between them, according to quantity, quality, and other circumſtances, when the youngeſt ſhall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, by three judicious and diſintereſted men; one to be choſen by each of the Brothers, and the third by theſe two, In the mean time, if the termination of my wife's intereſt therein ſhould have ceaſed, the profits ariſing therefrom are to be applied for their joint uſes and benefit.

THIRD – *And whereas* it has always been my intention, ſince my expectation of having iſſue has ceaſed,

ceaſed, to conſider the grand children of my wife, in the ſame light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them, more eſpecially by the two whom we have raiſed from their earlieſt infancy—namely, *Eleanor Park Cuſtis* and *George Waſhington Park Cuſtis*—*and whereas* the former of theſe hath lately intermarried with *Lawrence Lewis*, a ſon of my deceaſed ſiſter, *Betty Lewis*, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has been increaſed, *Wherefore* I give & bequeath to the ſaid *Lawrence Lewis* and *Eleanor Park Lewis*, his Wife, and their Heirs, the Reſidue of my Mount Vernon eſtate, not already deviſed to my Nephew, *Buſhrod Waſhington*, comprehended within the following deſcription, viz.—All the Land north of the road leading from the ford of Dogue Run to the Gum Spring, as deſcribed in the Deviſe of the other Part of the tract, to *Buſhrod Waſhington*, until it comes to the Stone and three Red or Spaniſh Oaks on the Knowl, thence with the reſt-angular line to the back line (between Mr. Maſon and me) thence with that line weſterly along the new double ditch to Dogue Run by the tumbling dam of my mill; thence with the ſaid run to the ford aforementioned, to which I add all the land I poſſeſs weſt of the ſaid Dogue Run and Dogue Creek, bounded eaſterly and ſoutherly thereby—together with the Mill, Diſtillery, & all other Houſes and improvements on the premiſes; making together about two thouſand acres, be it more or leſs. FOURTH.—Actuated by the principle already mentioned, I give and bequeath to *George Waſh-*

ington Park Cuſtis, the grandſon of my WIFE, and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on Four Mile Run in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thouſand two hundred acres, more or leſs, and my entire ſquare, number twenty one, in the City of Waſhington. FIFTH.—All the reſt and reſidue of my eſtate, real and perſonal, not diſpoſed of in manner aforeſaid, in whatſoever conſiſting—wherefoever lying—and whenſoever found—a Schedule of which as far as is recollected, with a reaſonable eſtimate of its value, is hereunto annexed—I deſire may be ſold by my Executors at ſuch times—in ſuch manner, and on ſuch credits (if an equal, valid, and ſatisfactory diſtribution of the ſpecific property cannot be made without) as in their judgment ſhall be moſt conducive to the intereſt of the parties concerned, and the monies ariſing therefrom to be divided into twenty-three equal parts, and applied as follows: viz. To *William Auguſtine Waſhington*, *Elizabeth Spotſwood*, *Jane Thornton*, and the heirs of *Ann Aſhton*, ſon and daughters of my deceaſed brother *Auguſtine Waſhington*, I give and bequeath four parts, that is, one part to each of them: To *Fielding Lewis*, *George Lewis*, *Robert Lewis*, *Howell Lewis*, and *Betty Carter*, ſons and daughter of my deceaſed ſiſter *Betty Lewis*, I give and bequeath five other parts, one to each of them: To *George Steptoe Waſhington*, *Lawrence Auguſtine Waſhington*, *Harriot Parks*, and the heirs of *Thornton Waſhington*, ſons and daughter of my deceaſed brother *Samuel Waſhington*, I give and bequeath the other four parts, one part to each of them: To *Corbin Waſhing-*

ton, and the heirs of *Jane Washington*, son and daughter of my deceased brother *John Augustine Washington*, I give and bequeath two parts, one part to each of them: To *Samuel Washington*, *Francis Ball*, and *Mildred Hammond*, son and daughters of my brother *Charles Washington*, I give and bequeath three parts, one part to each of them; and to *George Fayette Washington*, *Charles Augustine Washington*, and *Maria Washington*, sons and daughter of my deceased nephew *George Augustine Washington*, I give one other part, that is, to each a third of that part: To *Elizabeth Park Law*, *Martha Park Peter*, and *Eleanor Park Lewis*, I give and bequeath three other parts, that is a part to each of them; And to my nephew *Bushrod Washington* and *Lawrence Lewis*, and to my *Ward*, the grand son of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part, that is, a third thereof to each of them. And if it should so happen, that any of the persons whose names are here enumerated, (unknown to me) should now be dead, or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased persons shall, notwithstanding, devise all the benefits of the bequest, in the same manner as if he or she was actually living at the time; and by way of advice I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate of disposing of the landed property (therein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull; experience having fully evinced that the price of land (especially above the falls of the rivers and on the western waters) have been progressively rising and cannot be long checked in its encreasing va-

lue.

lue. And I particularly recommend it to ſuch of the Legatees (under this clauſe of my Will) as can make it convenient, to take each a ſhare of my Stock in the Potomac Company, in preference to the amount of what it might ſell for—being thoroughly convinced myſelf, that no uſes to which the money can be applied, will be ſo productive as the tolls ariſing from this Navigation when in full operation, (and this from the nature of things it muſt be ere long) and more eſpecially if that of the Shenandoah is added thereto.

The Family Vault at *Mount Vernon*, requiring repairs, and being improperly ſituated beſides, I deſire that a new one of brick, and upon a larger ſcale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Incloſure, on the ground which is marked out—In which my Remains, with thoſe of my deceaſed relations (now in the old Vault) and ſuch others of my Family as may chuſe to be entombed there, may be depoſited. And it is my expreſs deſire, that my Corps may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral Oration.

LASTLY, I conſtitute and appoint my dearly beloved Wife MARTHA WASHINGTON, my Nephews WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, BUSHROD WASHINGTON, GEORGE STEPTOE WASHINGTON, SAMUEL WASHINGTON, and LAWRENCE LEWIS, and my Ward GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS, (when he ſhall have arrived at the age of Twenty Years) Executrix and Executors of this WILL and TESTAMENT—In the conſtruction of which, it will readily be perceived that no profeſſional charac-

ter

ter has been conſulted, or has had any agency in the draught, and that although it has occupied many of my leiſure hours to digeſt, and to throw it into its preſent form, it may, notwithſtanding, appear crude and incorrect—but having endeavored to be plain and explicit in all the deviſes, even at the expence of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope and truſt that no diſputes will ariſe concerning them; but if, contrary to expectation, the caſe ſhould be otherwiſe from the want of legal expreſſion, or the uſual technical terms, or becauſe too much or too little has been ſaid on any of the deviſes to be conſonant with law, MY WILL and DIRECTION expreſsly is, that all diſputes (if unhappily any ſhould ariſe) ſhall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good underſtanding —two to be choſen by the diſputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by thoſe two —which three men thus choſen ſhall, unfettered by law or legal conſtructions, declare the ſenſe of the Teſtator's intentions; and ſuch deciſion is, to all intents and purpoſes, to be as binding on the parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN WITNESS of all, and of each of the things herein contained, I have ſet my Hand and Seal, this Ninth Day of July, in the Year One Thouſand, Seven Hundred and Ninety ——* *and of the Independence of the United States the Twenty-Fourth.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON. *(Seal)*

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* It appears the Teſtator omitted the word "NINE."

A SCHEDULE

Of Property comprehended in the foregoing WILL, *which is directed to be Sold, and ſome of it conditionally is Sold; with deſcriptive and explanatory notes relative thereto.*

IN VIRGINIA.

	Acres.	*Price.*	*Dollars.*	
Loudoun co. Difficult Run,	300		6,666	a
Loudoun and Fauquier,				
Aſhbys Bent,	2481	10 d.	24 80	b
Chattins Run,	885	8	7,080	b
Berkeley, S. fork of Bullſkin	1600			
Head of Evans's m.	453			
In Wormley's line,	183			
	2236	20	44,720	c
Frederick, bo't from Mercer,	571	20	11,420	d
Hampſhire, on Potomac river above B.	240	15	3,600	e
Glouceſter, on North river,	400	about	3,600	f
Nanſmond, near Suffolk, one-third of 1119 acres,	373	8	2,984	g
Great Diſmal Swamp, my dividend thereof,		about	20,000	h
Ohio Rive, Round Bottom,	587			
Little Kanhawa,	2314			
	2901			
Sixteen miles lower down,	2448			
Oppoſite Big Bent,	4395			
		dollars		
	9744	10	97,440	i

Great

	Acres.	Price.	Dollars.
GREAT KANHAWA.			
Near the North Well,	10,090		
East side above,	7276		
Mouth of Cole-river,	2000		
Opposite thereto, 2950 / Burning Spring, 125	3075		
			200,000k.
MARYLAND.			
Charles County,	600	6	3,600l.
Montgomery do	549	12	6,229m.
PENNSYLVANIA.			
Great Meadows,	234	6	1,404n.
NEW-YORK.			
Mohawk river,	about 1000	6	6,000o.
NORTH WEST TERRITORY.			
On Little Miami,	839		
Ditto,	977		
Ditto,	1235		
	3051	5	15,251p.
KENTUCKY.			
Rough Creek,	3000		
Ditto adjoining,	2000		
	5000	2	10,000q.

LOTS, viz.

City of Washington.

Two near the Capitol, Square 634, cost 963 dollars, and with buildings, 15,000r.

No. 5, 12, 13 and 14, the three last water lots on the Eastern Branch, in square 667, containing together 34,438 square feet, at 12 cents, 4,132s.

Alexandria.

Corner of Pitt and Prince Streets, half an acre laid out into buildings, three or four of

which are let on ground rent at 3 dollars per foot, 4,000t

Winchester.

A lot in the town of half an acre, and another in the Commons of about six acres, supposed 400u

Bath, or Warm Springs.

Two well situated, and had buildings to the amount of 150l. 800w

STOCK.

United States.

Six per Cents.	3746	
Ditto deferred 1873	2500	
Three per Cents 29,6		
		6,246x

Potomac Company.

Twenty-four Shares cost each 100l. sterling, 10,666y

James River Company.

Five Shares each cost 100 dollars 500z

Bank of Columbia.

One hundred and 70 Shares 40 dollars each 6,800‡

Bank of Alexandria,

Besides 20 Shares to the Free School—Five 1000‡

STOCK LIVING, viz.

One covering Horse, five carriage Horses, four riding ditto, six brood Mares, twenty working Horses and Mares, two covering Jacks, and three young ones, ten she Asses, 42 working Mules, 15 younger ones, 329 head of horned Cattle, 640 head of sheep, and a large stock of Hogs, the precise number unknown.—☞ My Manager has estimated this Live Stock at 7000l. but I shall set it down in order to make a round sum at 15,658

Aggregate Amount, 530,000

NOTES.

a. This tract, for the ſize of it, is valuable more for its ſituation than the quality of its ſoil, though that is good for farming; with a conſiderable proportion of ground, that might very eaſily be improved into meadow. It lies on the great road from the City of Waſhington, Alexandria and George-Town to Leeſburg and Winchester, at Difficult Bridge, nineteen miles from Alexandria, leſs from the City and George-Town, and not more than three from Matildaville, at the Great Falls of Potomak. There is a valuable ſeat on the premiſes, and the whole is conditionally ſold for the ſum annexed in the ſchedule.

b. What the ſelling prices of lands in the vicinity of theſe two tracts are, I know not; but compared with thoſe above the ridge, and others below them, the value annexed will appear moderate—a leſs one would not obtain them from me.

c. The ſurrounding land, not ſuperior in ſoil, ſituation, or properties of any ſort, ſells currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an acre. The loweſt price is affixed to theſe.

d. The obſervations made in the laſt note apply equally to this tract, being in the vicinity of them, and of ſimilar quality, although it lies in another county.

e. This tract, though ſmall, is extremely valuable. It lies on Potomak River, about 12 miles above the Town of Bath (or Warm Springs) and is in the ſhape of a horſeſhoe, the river running almoſt around it. Two hundred

acres

acres of it are rich low grounds, with a great abundance of the largeſt and fineſt walnut trees, which, with the produce of the ſoil, might (by means of the improved navigation of the Potomak) be brought to a ſhipping port with more eaſe, and at a ſmaller expenſe, than that which is tranſported 30 miles only by land.

f. This tract is of ſecond rate Glouceſter low grounds. It has no improvements thereon, but lies on navigable water, abounding in fiſh and oyſters. It was received in payment of a debt (carrying intereſt) and valued, in the year 1789, by an impartial gentleman, at £. 800.—N. B. It has lately been ſold, and there is due thereon a balance equal to what is annexed in the ſchedule.

g. Theſe 373 acres are the third part of undivided purchaſes made by the deceaſed Fielding Lewis, Thomas Walker, and myſelf, on full conviction that they would become valuable.—The land lies on the road from Suffolk to Norfolk, touches (if I am not miſtaken) ſome part of the navigable water of Nanſamond River; the rich Diſmal Swamp, is capable of great improvement, and, from its ſituation, muſt become extremely valuable.

h. This is an undivided intereſt which I held in the great Diſmal Swamp Company, containing about 4000 acres, with my part of the plantation and ſtock thereon, belonging to the Company, in the ſaid Swamp.

i. Theſe ſeveral tracts of land are of the firſt quality on the Ohio River, in the parts where they are ſituated, being almoſt, if not altogether,

ther, river bottoms. The ſmalleſt of theſe tracts is actually ſold at ten dollars an acre, but the conſideration therefor not received. The reſt are equally valuable, and will ſell as high ;— eſpecially that which lies juſt below the Little Kanhawa, and is oppoſite to a thick ſettlement on the weſt ſide the river. The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the river of ſixteen miles, and are bounded thereby that diſtance

k. Theſe tracts are ſituated on the Great Kanhawa River, and the firſt four are bounded thereby for more than forty miles. It is acknowledged by all who have ſeen them (and of the tract containing 10,990 acres, which I have been on myſelf, I can aſſert) that there is no richer, or more valuable land in all that region They are conditionally ſold for the ſum mentioned in the ſchedule, that is 200,000 dollars, and if the terms of that ſale are not complied with, they will command conſiderably more.— The tract, of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myſelf, for, and on account of, a bituminous ſpring which it contains, of ſo inflammable a nature, as to burn as freely as ſpirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguiſh.

l. I am but little acquainted with this land, although I have once been on it. It was received (many years ſince) in diſcharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Jenifer Adams, at the value annexed thereto, and muſt be worth more. It is very level—lies near the River Potomak.

m. This tract lies about 30 miles above the City of Waſhington, not far from Kittoctan. It is good farming land, and, by thoſe who are well

acquainted with it, I am informed that it would ſell at twelve or fifteen dollars per acre.

n. This land is valuable, on account of its local ſituation and other properties. It affords an exceeding good ſtand on Bradock's Road from Fort-Cumberland to Pittſburg; and, beſides a fertile ſoil, poſſeſſes a large quantity of natural meadow, fit for the ſcythe. It is diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of the Great Meadows, where the firſt action with the French, in the year 1754, was fought.

o. This is the moiety of about 2000 acres, which remains unſold, of 6071 acres on the Mohawk River (Montgomery county) in a patent granted to Daniel Coxe, in the Townſhip of Coxeborough and Carolan, as will appear by deed, from Marinus Willet and wife, to George Clinton (late governor of New York) and myſelf. The latter ſales have been at ſix dollars an acre, and what remains unſold will fetch that or more.

p. The quality of theſe lands and their ſituation, may be known by the Surveyor's Certificates, which are filed along with the patents — They lay in the vicinity of Cincinnati; one tract near the mouth of the Little Miami—another ſeven, and the third ten miles up the ſame. I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are eſtimated at.

q. For the deſcription of thoſe tracts in detail, ſee General Spotſwood's letters, filed with the other papers relating to them. Beſides the general good quality of the land, there is a valuable bank of iron ore thereon, which, when the

ſettlement

ſettlement becomes more populous) and ſettlers are moving that way very faſt) will be found very valuable, as the Rough creek, a branch of Green River, affords ample water for furnaces and forges.

LOTS—Viz.

City of Waſhington.

r. The two Lots near the Capitol, in Square 634, coſt me 963 dols. only, but in this price I was favored, on condition that I ſhould build two brick houſes, three ſtory high each; without this reduction the ſelling prices of thoſe lots would have coſt me about 1350 dols. Theſe lots, with the buildings thereon, when completed, will ſtand me in 15000 dollars at leaſt.

s. Lots No. 5, 12, 13 and 14, on the Eaſtern Branch, are advantageouſly ſituated on the water, and although many lots much leſs convenient have ſold a great deal higher, I will rate theſe at 12 cents the ſquare foot only.

Alexandria.

t For this lot, though unimproved, I have refuſed 2500 dol. It has ſince been laid off into proper ſized lots for building on—three or four of which are let on ground rent forever, at three dollars a foot on the ſtreet—and this price is aſked for both fronts on Pitt and Prince ſtreet.

Wincheſter.

u. As neither the lot in the Town or Common have any improvements on them, it is not eaſy to fix a price but as both are well ſituated, it it preſumed the price annexed to them in the Schedule is a reaſonable valuation.

Bath.

w. The lots in Bath (two adjoining) coſt me to the beſt of my recollection between 50 and 60 pounds 20 years ago; and the buildings thereon 150l. more.—Whether property there has increaſed or decreaſed in its

its value, and in what condition the Houſes are, I am ignorant—but ſuppoſe they are not valued too high.

STOCK.

x. Theſe are the ſums which are actually funded, and though no more in the aggregate than 7 566 dollars, ſtand me in at leaſt ten thouſand pounds, Virginia money; being the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, and diſcharged during the war, when money had depreciated in that rate—☞ and was ſo ſettled by public authority.

y. The value annexed to theſe ſhares is what they have actually coſt me, and is the price affixed by law; and although the preſent ſelling price is under par, my advice to the Legatees (for whoſe benefit they are intended, eſpecially thoſe who can afford to lie out of the money) is that each ſhould take and hold one—there being a moral certainty of a great and increaſing profit ariſing from them, in the courſe of a few yeara.

z. It is ſuppoſed that the Shares in the James River Company muſt alſo be productive:: But of this I can give no decided opinion, for want of more accurate information.

‡ Theſe are the nominal prices of the ſhares in the Banks of Alexandria and Columbia—the ſelling prices vary according to circumſtances;—but as the ſtock uſually divides from eight to ten per cent per annum, they muſt be worth the former, at leaſt, ſo long as the Banks are conceived to be ſecure, although circumcumſtances may ſometimes make them below it.

The value of the live ſtock depends more upon the quality than quantity of the different ſpecies of it—and this again upon the demand and judgment, or fancy of purchaſers.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

MOUNT-VERNON,
9th July, 1799.

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